GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Use of Antibiotics in Animals
Suman Shri Balka

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has written to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries seeking to regulate the use of antibiotics in animals due to increasing Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR) in animals which is indirectly affecting human health, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to frame and implement a regulatory framework to limit the use of antimicrobials in livestock and food animals. if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is in the process of developing surveillance systems for anti-microbial resistance and antibiotic use in the animal population;
(d) if so, whether the Government has any data on exact amount of antibiotic consumed within the poultry industry and the condition for which the medication was prescribed; and
(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSAN BHAGAT)

(a) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has not received letter from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to regulate the use of antibiotics in animals. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prepared comprehensive National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance to implement relevant policies and plans to prevent, control and monitor AMR. Recently, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare has sent a communication to Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries to provide detailed inputs from the ministry regarding action to be taken by the Ministry for AMR containment so that the same can be incorporated for operationalizing the action plan.

(b)&(c) As per the information received from the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO) that import, manufacture, sale, distribution of drugs including antibiotics are regulated under provisions of Drugs & Cosmetic Act and Rules. Antibiotics are required to be sold by retail only under the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. Further, in order to regulate the sale of antibiotics, the Drugs Cosmetic Rules, 1945 has been amended vide Gazette Notification No. GSR588(E) dated 30.08.2013 incorporating a new, namely, Schedule H1 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules containing 46 drugs which include antibiotic drugs. Rule 97 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 were amended vide Gazette Notification No GSR 28 (E) dated 17-01-2012 making it mandatory that the container of a medicine for treatment of food producing animals shall be labelled with the withdrawal period of the drug for the species on which it is intended to be used.

Further, the Department of Animal Husbandry has issued advisories to all state/UTs for judicious use of antibiotics in livestock sector and for general awareness and to stop the use of antimicrobials in animal feed. Veterinary Council of India has also issued an advisory to all the State Veterinary Councils, and Universities to organize workshop on AMR during the world Veterinary Day celebration on 29th April, 2017.

The Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RDDLs), Institutes under Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), Veterinary Colleges, State Disease Diagnostic Laboratories are performing Antimicrobial sensitivity test which is a part of antimicrobial surveillance.

(d)&(e) The CDSCO has informed that prescription of drugs by doctors does not come under the purview of CDSCO.

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